LOWER 8.3 MILES OF LOWER PASSAIC RIVER/
DIAMOND ALKALI SUPERFUND SITE, NEW JERSEY

TOPIC: Status of cleanup at the Lower Passaic River site

BACKGROUND:

- In March 2016, the EPA issued a record of decision for an estimated $1.38 billion cleanup plan to address the lower 8.3 miles of the Lower Passaic River. The plan includes dredging 3.5 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment and installing an engineered bank-to-bank cap. The contaminated sediment will be transported offsite to permitted disposal facilities.

- The Lower Passaic River, which is comprised of the 17-mile tidal stretch of the river from Dundee Dam to Newark Bay, is part of the Diamond Alkali Superfund site, a former pesticides manufacturing facility in Newark, NJ.

- The river is contaminated with dioxin, polychlorinated biphenyls, pesticides, mercury, and other contaminants. Contamination closed fisheries, hampered local waterfront development plans, and increased the Port of New York and New Jersey's dredging costs.

- *Accomplishments:* Prior actions included the removal of 40,000 cubic yards of highly contaminated sediments near the former Diamond Alkali manufacturing site in Newark in 2012, and 16,000 cubic yards from a mudflat in Lyndhurst in 2014.

- *Congressional Interest:* Senators Menendez (D-NJ) and Booker (D-NJ) and Congressmen Pascrell (D-NJ), Payne (D-NJ), Sires (D-NJ), and Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) have been invited to site meetings.

TALKING POINTS:

- The cleanup plan for the lower 8.3 miles will be consistent with any cleanup approach to be selected for the rest of the Lower Passaic River and for Newark Bay.

- An administrative order on consent for the remedial design for the $1.38 billion cleanup plan was signed with Occidental Chemical Corporation (OCC) in September 2016. The construction design activities are anticipated to take four years.

- While the design work is underway, the EPA and the Department of Justice are seeking a settlement agreement for the dredging and capping work with OCC and other potentially responsible parties.

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